



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GO SERV APPLAUDS STATE'S COMMITMENT TO SERVE DURING VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week Observed April 27 – May 30, 2003

SACRAMENTO - The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) recognized the exceptional commitment of Californians to serve during National Volunteer Week, this week observed from April 27 – May 3, 2003.

“National Volunteer Week highlights the true spirit not only of Californians, but of all Americans, who get out and give back to their communities in important ways,” said Chuck J. Supple, Executive Director of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV).

A recent poll conducted by the Institute for Public Policy of California found that 47% of Californians have volunteered in the last 12 months. Among those who had not volunteered, 41% are willing to step up and do so given the economic challenges facing the state, and nearly one third of those who had been volunteering are willing to do more.

Sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation and the Volunteer Centers National Network, National Volunteer Week is now in its 30th year. Though volunteering takes place 365 days a year, National Volunteer Week was created as a way to recognize the outstanding efforts of Americans who give of themselves everyday.

Governor Gray Davis issued the attached proclamation:

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P R O C L A M A T I O N
by the
Governor of the State of California

WHEREAS, California's residents have a long-standing history of civic responsibility and service to others; and

WHEREAS, Californians, like many other Americans, have a renewed sense of commitment and connection to their communities; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 million volunteers across the nation share their time, energy and resources to make a positive impact on the lives of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, more than 15 million Californians volunteer three to five hours per week with nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, volunteers help to meet the critical needs of local communities through their service; and

WHEREAS, community service promotes social responsibility and challenges us to be responsible civic leaders; and

WHEREAS, during National Volunteer Week, volunteer and service organizations will honor those who represent the true spirit of America: the volunteers who have lead by example and selflessly shared their time to benefit their community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GRAY DAVIS, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim April 27--May 3, 2003 as "Volunteer Week."

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